



United States Department of Agriculture  
Food and Nutrition Service

Southeast Region

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Reply to

Attn. of: SERO Policy

April 12, 2004

Subject: SFSP Policy Memorandum 225.09-03: Using Metropolitan Statistical Area Data for Determining Rural Administrative Reimbursement

To: All State Directors  
Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)  
Southeast Region

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Regulations provide additional administrative reimbursements to sponsoring organizations for meals served to sites in rural locations (7CFR225.9(d)(8)(iii)). The term *Rural* is defined in the SFSP Regulations (7CFR225.2) as (a) any area in a county which is not a part of a Metropolitan Statistical Area or (b) any "pocket" within a Metropolitan Statistical Area which, at the option of the State agency and with FNSRO concurrence, is determined to be geographically isolated from urban areas.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has recalculated the Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) based upon the Census Bureau's decennial Census of 2000. Two links to the OMB website provide Adobe Acrobat files for reference in identifying currently defined MSAs: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/b03-04\\_attach.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/b03-04_attach.pdf), and an errata sheet: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/b03-04\\_errata.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/b03-04_errata.html).

The above website, OMB Bulletin No. 03-04, titled *Revised Definitions of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, New Definitions of Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Combined Statistical Areas, and Guidance on Uses of the Statistical Definitions of These Areas*, contains eight lists of MSAs, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Combined Statistical Areas, and New England City and Town Areas (NECTA). **An explanation of these areas is provided below, however, the only concept referenced in the SFSP regulations is the MSA. Therefore, we will continue to consider only those locales not designated as Metropolitan Statistical Areas to be rural for purposes of the SFSP.** For ease in identifying MSAs in your State, we suggest that you use List Number 5, which begins on page 105 and presents the areas alphabetically by state with the area designation in the final column. Special care should be taken to assure that the cities and counties being referenced are associated with a MSA, since the list also provides other designated areas.

OMB Statistical Area Definitions

A Metropolitan Statistical Area is a locale where at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration

with the core as measured by commuting ties. By contrast, a Micropolitan Statistical Area, which is a new set of statistical areas based upon the 2000 Census, is defined as having at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties.

In addition, OMB has given special consideration to the six “New England” States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. For these six States, the New England City and Town Areas (NECTA) are defined using the same criteria as Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and are identified as either metropolitan or micropolitan based respectively on the presence of either an urbanized area of 50,000 or more population or an urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population.

Please notify your sponsors and implement this policy as appropriate. If you have any questions, please contact this office.

PEGGY FOUTS  
Regional Director  
Special Nutrition Programs